GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2465
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
WORKING OF COAL INDUSTRY
KANTI SINGH;MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the working of coal industry under the coal Mining Policy of 1979;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to replace the Coal Mining Policy of 1979;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the salient features of the proposed policy; and

(e) the time by which the new policy is likely to be finalised?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : The Coal Mining Policy of 1979did not yield fruitful results, because of, interalia, restrictions placed on the State Governments in regard to mining of coking coal and underground mining.

(c) : Yes, Sir.

(d) : Under the 1979 Policy, mining operations were confined to non-coking coal and opencast operations in isolated small pockets only. In the context of projected gap between demand and supply of coal in the coming years, it was considered necessary to enlist the participation of State Governments also in augmenting coal production. Therefore, the policy is being reviewed.

(e) : The proposal is under consideration of the Government and it will not be possible to indicate any time limit for a decision in the matter.